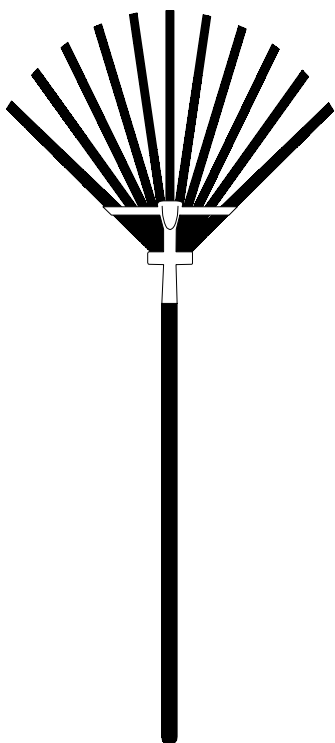




Handling Flood-Damaged Hay



Overly-Mature Perennials

Some overly-mature alfalfa or clover grass can be partially salvaged by mixing and ensiling the crop. Although nutritional value will be low, this is a fast method of removing the crop to ensure a good second cutting. Ensile perennials in either conventional upright or temporary trench silos. To make a trench silo:

- Locate the trench where drainage is good.
- Design the trench for efficient feeding. A long, narrow, deep trench results in less feeding loss than a wide, shallow trench.

To make the silage:

- Direct cut or wilt to 65 to 70% moisture.
- Chop finely.
- Pack thoroughly.
- If available, add 100 to 200 pounds of corn and cob chop to each ton of ensile nutrients. This will improve fermentation, quality and palatability.

Hay

To minimize damage to flooded hay crops:

- Remove old growth from fields which have not been harvested. This will encourage a good aftermath crop.
- Make this crop into hay or silage.
- If crop is silt-damaged, chop it uniformly back onto the field. Then topdress immediately with fertilizer. You may also want to apply nitrogen to stimulate legumes as well as grasses. Check with an agronomist for recommended application rates.
- On fields harvested just prior to the flood, make crop into hay or silage. Then topdress with fertilizer. Check with your County Extension Agent for specific recommendations.
- If growth is short or yellow, topdress immediately.

This document is IFAS publication DH 607.

Adapted by UF/IFAS from:
Document DH-081,
IFAS Disaster Handbook for
Extension Agents (developed
by the Cooperative Extension
Service for the benefit of
Florida's citizens)